1999

Spring

NCNA *Journal*

NCNA Journal

NC Quarters Program

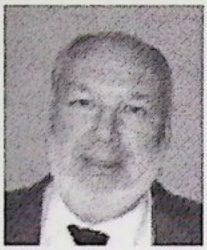
NCW in Chapel Hill

Gold in North Carolina

Spring 1999

North Carolina Numismatic Association

North Carolina Numismatic Association



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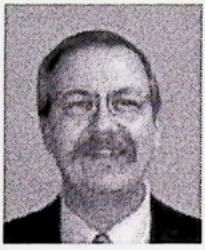

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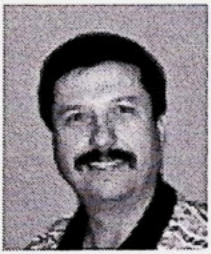

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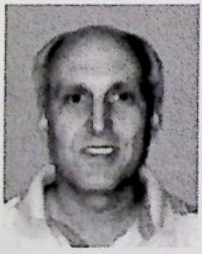

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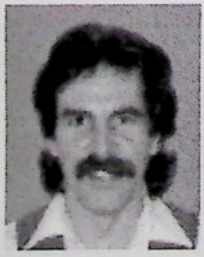

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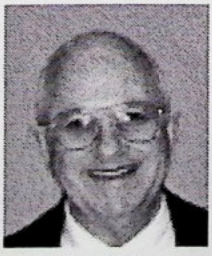

John Wills

NCNA Journal

North Carolina Numismatic Association

Volume 25 Number 2

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Authors: The *Journal* welcomes short, original articles, reviews, club news, opinions, letters or similar items of numismatic interest. Please submit to the editor. All correspondence will be answered. Issue deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 5, November 15.

The NCNA *Journal* is the official publication of the North Carolina Numismatic Association, an educational, non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of numismatics. It is published four times each year at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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From the President

Dear Members,

Three items for this message.

First: This is the official call for nominations for NCNA officers and directors for the year 2000. Make this your organization. Have your say. Do your part. Send your nomination, or have someone nominate you. We have many people in this organization who are making a contribution and more that could. Let us know about all of them. Don't wait for someone else to make the suggestion. All nominations should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, Box 2331, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 by July 15.

Secondly: Ted Hendrick and Cy Dellinger tell me that plans are well advanced for the 1999 NCNA Convention and Coin Show scheduled for Greensboro the weekend of September 24-26. We are planning a full bourse, plenty of exhibits, a full educational program, and an all round fun event.

Thirdly: The Commemorative Quarter Program for North Carolina is now making progress. Several of your officers met with officials of the State of North Carolina. This meeting resulted in the press release reported elsewhere in this issue. Take this chance to promote your ideas. The Winston-Salem Coin Club invited design ideas from juniors at their show. The Raleigh Coin Club will invite design ideas from the public at their show. Spread the word. Once again, you have a chance to make a difference.

Halbert Carmichael
President

NC Quarter Program Underway

by Bob Schreiner

Note: The NC commemorative quarter program is on a fast track. Design ideas are due at the Department of Cultural Resources by June 30.

Representatives from the North Carolina Numismatic Association met on April 9 with officials from the NC Department of Cultural Resources to discuss the North Carolina commemorative quarter program. Our quarter will be released in 2001.

Present at the meeting were Secretary of Cultural Resources Betty Ray McCain, Deputy Secretary Betsy Buford, and Archivist Jeffrey Crow. Representing the North Carolina Numismatic Association were Halbert Carmichael, president; Ted Hendrick, director, Bob Schreiner, secretary/treasurer and Dot Hendrick. Also representing the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association (an association representing the southeastern states) were Judith Murphy, president and Claud Murphy, governor. Following is the text of the Department of Cultural Resources press release which details how people may submit design ideas. Crow will be the State official leading the NC quarter program. NCNA will track progress on the web site http://www.unc.edu/~rcs/quarters/.

L to R: Jeffrey Crow, Betsy Buford, Betty Ray McCain, Ted Hendrick, Dot Hendrick, Judith Murphy (partially obscured), Halbert Carmichael, and Claud Murphy

CALL FOR NORTH CAROLINA COMMEMORATIVE COIN DESIGNS

Artists and the general public are encouraged to submit designs for a commemorative quarter with a North Carolina theme to the N.C. Division of Archives and History. Two dimensional drawings of any North Carolina theme topic are welcome, but the N.C. Commemorative Coin Committee is particularly interested in drawings featuring the Wright Brothers' first flight, the original colony at Roanoke Island or lighthouses.

This project is a response to the Fifty State Commemorative Coin Program Act, which authorizes the U.S. Treasury to issue a series of circulating quar-

(Continued on page 4)

ters whose reverse side designs represent each of the 50 states. The coins will be issued in the order which the states ratified the Constitution or were admitted to the Union. North Carolina's coin will begin circulation in 2001, along with coins of New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Kentucky.

Hundreds of millions of the North Carolina coins will circulate after release by the U.S. Mint. The N.C. Commemorative Coin Committee will review the designs in July and recommend three to five concepts for final approval by the U.S. Treasury. Coin committee members include N.C. Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Betty Ray McCain, Deputy Secretary Elizabeth F. Buford, N.C. Division of Archives and History Director Jeffrey J. Crow, Ted Hendrick, Dot Hendrick, Judith Murphy, Halbert Carmichael, Claud Murphy and Bob Schreiner.

Entries should be postmarked by June 30, 1999, and should be addressed to Dr. Jeffrey J. Crow, Director, N.C. Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-2807. Questions about the design or the program should be directed to Dr. Crow's office, 919/733-3705, or email jcrow@ncsl.dcr.state.nc.us.

The Division of Archives and History is an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

See the Spring 1998 issue of the Journal *more information about the US Mint's 50 State Quarter Program. Or visit web site http://www.usmint.gov/50States/default.htm. For more photos from the April meeting at the Department of Cultural Resources, see http://www.unc.edu/~rcs/quarters/.*

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Journal Changes

Notice some changes to the *Journal* this issue? There are several. The issue is reaching you via bulk rate mail in an envelop. Our new printer, JT Stanton, has a bulk rate permit that we can use to reduce the cost of postage. We are applying postage savings to more pages to the *Journal*. This issue, 24 pages plus cover, is 8 pages longer than usual. The greater length accommodates a (near) abundance of articles. Thank you, authors all!

The envelop affords a bit more security for you. NCNA is identified only by its acronym.

We hope you agree that these are worthy changes. Think of others? Write us. —The Editor

NCNA Honors Russ Southworth for Extraordinary Service

Russ Southworth, outgoing secretary/treasurer of NCNA, was recognized with an NCNA Honorary Life Membership and a plaque for his long service to the organization. Russ served as NCNA secretary/treasurer for more than 25 years. His exhibits on the Mayflower medals and history have appeared regularly at our conventions, ANA conventions, and elsewhere during his long numismatic life.

The plaque, presented by President Carmichael at a ceremony at the Winston-Salem Coin Club show on March 20, reads:

For Long and Outstanding Service

Honorary Life Membership—1999

Russ continues to serve NCNA in convention planning, and in passing on his special knowledge to new secretary/treasurer Bob Schreiner.

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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Celebrates National Coin Week

Local, regional, and national clubs—including NCNA—formed to host a special numismatic event in Chapel Hill. Celebrated were National Coin Week (April 19-25) and a special numismatic exhibition at the University's North Carolina Collection Gallery (see the Fall 1998 *Journal* for a review of the exhibition, which runs through May 31).

Coin and paper money collectors and scholars gathered at the Wilson Library to examine the history of money in North Carolina in a two-day symposium in conjunction with the North Carolina Collection's exhibition "Hard Cash & Hard Times."

Gallery Keeper Neil Fulghum (left, facing camera in white shirt and dark tie) leads visitors on a tour of the Gallery

The emphasis on Saturday, April 17, was paper money. During a regional meeting of the Society of Paper Money Collectors, five experts made presentations on their specialties: Bob Schreiner, the development and use of obsolete paper money; Paul Horner, illegal paper money in North Carolina; Claud Murphy, Confederate and Southern States paper money; Larry Cotten, national bank notes; and Harry Corrigan; the economics of paper money in the US after the Civil War.

On Sunday, the focus turned to coins. Halbert Carmichael discussed the influence of English coinage on North Carolina and US colonial and national coinage; Alex Armstrong noted the effect of Spanish coinage on our coins; Neil Fulghum highlighted the private coinage of the North Carolina Bechtler family; David Boitnott examined the Charlotte mint gold coinage; David Provost reviewed the Roanoke half dollar commemorative; and Bill Robinson discussed the availability and condition population of Charlotte

and Bechtler coins.

On each day, Gallery Keeper R. Neil Fulghum led a tour of the exhibition. Visitors brought coins and paper money for identification and informal appraisal. One guest brought a rare 1902 date back Shelbina, Missouri National banknote that had a reported population of only one--his was the second.

The event was intended to highlight the numismatic interests of the North Carolina Collection Gallery and Keeper Fulghum and his assistant, Laura Baxley. Fulghum hopes to increase the numismatic holdings of the NC Collection to a more complete representation of the use of money in the State.

L to R: Halbert Carmichael, Judith Murphy, Neil Fulghum, Bob Anthony (curator of NCC), and David Provost

The North Carolina Collection's currency holdings are fairly strong with respect to obsolete, Confederate, and state issues, but they are decidedly weak in colonial paper and national bank notes--two areas where Keeper Fulghum would appreciate support and expertise from private collectors.

The event raised $1250 from five sponsoring organizations: the Society of Paper Money Collectors, the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association, the North Carolina Numismatic Association, the Raleigh Coin Club, and the Winston-Salem Coin Club. NCNA contributed $250. More than 70 people attended over the two days.

For more information about the North Carolina Collection Gallery, contact Neil Fulghum at 919-962-1172, e-mail rfulghum@email.unc.edu or Laura Baxley, Assistant to the Keeper , 919-962-1172, e-mail lbaxley@email.unc.edu. The NCC Web site is http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/

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Gold Discovered in North Carolina

by David W. Boitnott

Two Hundred years ago in 1799 the first authenticated discovery of gold in the United States occurred in North Carolina. Various versions of the story have been published over the years; however, in honor of the bicentennial of this momentous event in North Carolina history it will be retold here just one more time.

In 1799, the month or season lost to history, Conrad Reid (sometimes spelled Reed), the twelve-year-old son of John Reid, is credited with the first discovery of gold in the country. By 1799 John Reid, a German immigrant and former Hessian Soldier who had deserted the British in 1783 during the Revolutionary War, had settled in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Here with his family he had acquired just over 300 acres, a portion of which he might have been given as a bounty for fighting on the side of the United States after his desertion. He scratched out his livelihood farming part of this holding. It was here on a Sunday while babysitting his younger siblings while his parents were attending church that young Conrad made his discovery. While the children were playing and bow fishing along Meadow Creek, Conrad spied a shinny yellow rock in the streambed. Curious, he waded in and retrieved the heavy rock. He proudly took the seventeen-pound wedge-shaped rock home and showed his father.

John Reid was unsure of its make-up but at least expected or hoped it was gold, even though gold was unheard of in the region. This is evidenced by the fact he took the rock to William Atkinson, a silversmith, in nearby Concord, North Carolina. Mr. Atkinson, being unfamiliar with gold himself, was unable or unwilling to risk pronouncing it as such. He only said it was not silver and that he could not identify what metal it was. Most likely disappointed, John Reid took the rock home where he put it to good use as a doorstop.

It was used as a doorstop until some time in late 1802 or early 1803. One source states that Mr. Reid sold it to a traveler (James C. Gray, "A Search for Heritage", *The Numismatist*, August 1998) but most others agreed Mr. Reid

took it with him on his annual trip for supplies to Fayetteville, North Carolina. While in Fayetteville, he took it to a jeweler who identified it as gold and offered to flux it for him. Mr. Reid agreed and left it with the jeweler while he attended to purchasing the necessary supplies for the farm. Upon returning to the jeweler it had been melted and cast into a bar six to eight inches long weighing seventeen pounds. It is unclear who set the price, the jeweler or Mr. Reid, but either way the bar stayed in Fayetteville and John Reid happily returned home three dollars and fifty cents richer. How long he remained happy is unknown since he subsequently learned that seventeen pounds of gold was worth $3600!

At least one source states that on his next trip to Fayetteville for supplies, Mr. Reid paid a visit to the jeweler to discuss the discrepancy. One can only imagine how that conversation transpired and it is not recorded whether any settlement was reached. Whatever the outcome don't feel too sorry for Mr. Reid as the mine established on the property which bore his name became one of the richest in the state. Originally operated as a placer mine—a mine where the gold was found on the surface and not underground—they found that gold was literally littering the streambed of Meadow Creek for about a mile. Late in 1803, not far from where young Conrad had made his discovery, John Reid found a twenty-eight pound whopper of a nugget. But this is nothing when compared to the claim made in 1845 when John Reid, Sr. died and the mine was sold to settle his estate. In a notice published to advertise the mine's sale it was noted that the largest mass of pure gold ever found in the United States to that date had been found at the Reid mine. It weighed 299 pounds, avoirdupois! The mine continued to operate after the sale and is now a North Carolina State Historical Site and open to the public. Such is the story and legend behind the first authenticated discovery of gold in the United States—a four-year trek of discovery.

For anyone wishing to read more on John Reid, the Reid Gold Mine, and the early history of North Carolina gold, I might suggest the following books: *The Establishment of the Charlotte Branch Mint - A Documented History* by Anthony J. Stautzenberger, *The United States Branch Mint at Charlotte, North Carolina - Its History and Coinage* by Clair M. Birdsall, *The Bechtlers and Their Coinage - North Carolina Mint Masters of Pioneer Gold* by Rodney Barfield and Keith Strawn, *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States* by Donald H. Kagin, Ph.D., and *The Mint Museum of Art at Charlotte - A Brief History* by Henrietta H. Wilkinson. Happy collecting and hopefully reading until next time when maybe I'll write a little something on the "North Carolina Gold Rush."

David Boitnott is a member of the Raleigh Coin Club. The article first appeared in the RCC Newsletter *and is used with permission.*

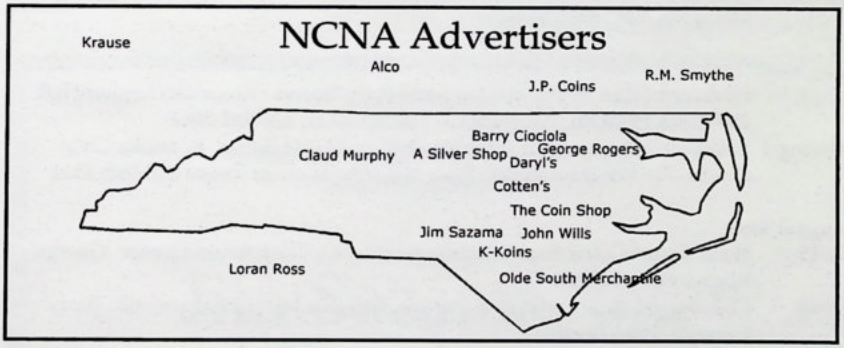
NCNA Board Endorses Two for ANA Office

The NCNA Board awarded Association endorsement to two ANA candidates. JT Stanton has been recommended for president and John Wilson was chosen for governor. The Board encourages all NCNA members to participate in the ANA election this summer and to vote for your preferences.

Nominations Sought for NCNA Office

Annual election for new NCNA officers and board members will be held in late summer. Nominations are now open for all officer positions and three directors (outgoing directors are Barry Ciociola, John Page, Clark White, and John Wills). You may nominate yourself or other NCNA member.

Send nominations to the secretary/treasurer at the Club Headquarters address (see page 1). **Nominations should be received by July 15.**



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Coin Show Calendar

Local chairs please notify the editor of your plans as soon as possible.

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rcschreiner@mindspring.com

May 1999

14-16 Wake Forest Coins Show. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. George Rogers 919-556-1994

22-23 Raleigh Coin Club Show. Kerr Scott Building, State Fairgrounds. Halbert Carmichael, 919-832-4128

29-30 Carteret Numismatic Society Coin, Stamp & Collectible Show. Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell St., Morehead City, NC. David Porter, 910-326-3233

June 1999

4-6 Carolina Coin & Stamp Shows. Charlotte Merchandise Mart. Ted Hendrick 919-828-9450

5 Coin Show. Knoxville, TN. Best Western, I-75 North and Merchants Rd. Lee Loper 423-523-7016

18-20 Memphis International Paper Money Show. Cook Convention Center, Memphis, TN. 901-754-6118

July 1999

10-11 Piedmont Triad Regional Coin and Stamp Shows. American Legion Hall, 729 Creek Price Rd, Greensboro. Linda Cohen 336-951-2007.

31-Aug 1 Collector's Showcase of America Coin and Card Show. Roanoke Civic Center, 710 Williamson Rd., Roanoke, VA. Emmett Yonce 540-992-5331

August 1999

13-15 Wake Forest Coins Show. Myrtle Beach (SC) Convention Center. George Rogers 919-556-1994

17-18 Coin Show. Burlington Ramada Inn, I-85 exit 143 at Highway 62. Barry Ciociola, 919-479-6878

20-22 Wake Forest Coins Show. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. George Rogers 919-556-1994

11-15 American Numismatic Association Anniversary Convention. Rosemont Convention Center, Chicago, IL. 719-632-2646

27-29 Blue Ridge Numismatic Association. NW Georgia Convention Center, Dalton, GA. Judith Murphy, PO Box 476, East Bend, NC 27018

28-29 Annual West Tennessee Collector's Club Coin Show. Jackson St. Comm. College Baptist Student Union Center, 2035 N. Parkway, Jackson, TN. James Lynn Cupples 901-424-3621

September 1999

17-19 Carolina Coin & Stamp Shows. Charlotte Merchandise Mart. Ted Hendrick 919-828-9450

24-26 NCNA 41st Annual Convention and Coin Show. Village Green, 310 W. Meadowview, Greensboro. CY Dellinger 704-568-3897

October 1999

9-10 Piedmont Triad Regional Coin and Stamp Shows. American Legion Hall, 729 Creek Price Rd, Greensboro. Linda Cohen 336-951-2007.

23-24 Salem Coin Club Fall Show. American Legion Building, 710 Apperson Dr., Salem, VA. Emmett Yonce, 540-992-5331

November 1999

13-14 Carolina Coin & Stamp Shows. Raleigh, Holshouser Building, State Fairgrounds. Ted Hendrick 919-828-9450

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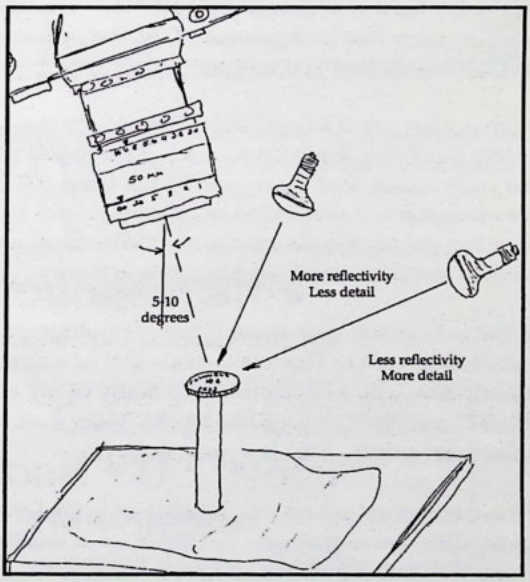
Oblique Angle Coin Photography

by Alex Armstrong

The standard scale photographs in most catalogues would not allow for discriminating observations. I wanted to duplicate the detail seen when through a stereo microscope at 1 0-20x. I think that it is very important to look at the whole coin and all its physical attributes (including the edge) when collecting, not just worrying about the date. It is surprising to note that many of the so called rarities (rare dates) have actually been discovered to be contemporary counterfeits (especially for Latin America). It pays to look up close!

One of the most beneficial ways to view your coins is to have a photographic record of your coins. The main benefit here is that you can view or study your coin photographs while the coins are safely stored in the bank vault. You can also make photocopies to carry with you to shows or that vacation trip to Central America.

The method that I use for photography is what I call Oblique Angle Coin Photography (OACP). OACP uses a light source that reflects off the coin surface at some angle, rather than face on. This will bring out shadows and detail not normally seen. To bring out luster, the coin/camera may also be angled to bring out the coin's luster/reflectivity. As long as the off axis angle is no more than 10 degrees from the camera axis, the coins appear fairly round. I find this method makes each photograph aesthetically pleasing. Note that proof-like coins look best with more face-on light and straight-on reflections. Ringlights work best here!



A good SLR with extension tubes is recommended. I prefer to use an extension tube with a standard 24-50mm lens operating between F5.6 and F11

(Continued on page 16)

aperture. This allows for a sharp focus and detail at the film plane. I also use manual extension tubes so I can monitor focus and depth of field at these high F stop values. If the background is not clean, you may pick up semi-focused hair or dust at these high F's, so use a cleanable background. I prefer to focus at low F's and then increase F-stop to correct exposure. I have never had a bad photograph this way! I like to use a bulb pneumatic shutter release to prevent "jerks!" I generally meter exposure by using an off-white background, then back off 1-2+ stops for the coin. You can experiment here. For taking both obverse and reverse views on the same picture frame, move the coin to the top side of the frame (on one side of the split focus screen). Take the picture. Next, push the rewind sprocket disengagement button on the bottom of the Camera and advance the shutter. Now move and flip the coin over to the bottom side of the frame and take the picture. Be careful not to overlap images. Use the split focus area as a divider in your SLR's viewfinder. Also advance the film twice with the lens cover on, before taking the next dual picture! This prevents a bad shot-to-shot overlap!

The coin is placed on a "moveable" pedestal above a very dark background. Dark colored backgrounds may be used as long as the coin is very reflective or bright. Lighter backgrounds do not work as well. The camera must have a suitable rigid mount such as a copy stand for this type of photography. Move the light source until a "desirable" view is found. Meter exposure with an off-white background. Take the picture! You may experiment to get the results that you require.

Film preference is a color slide film or very fine grain high contrast black & white film. I recommend Kodak Tech-Pan 2415 for B&W, Kodachrome 64 for color slides, and the newer Kodak Gold 100 color print films. Experimentation is recommended as personal tastes for photographs will vary. One can get acceptable results even with local developing. One can easily build a stand for less than $10 if one is thrifty.

What is amazing with these types of photographs is the amount of unseen detail discovered. This view rivals that of a stereo microscope, which one should also use. I have blown up many of my photographs to sizes of 30x40", and they all look like works of art, aesthetically. I have never seen finer color prints. This is a great hobby!

I have not as yet set up a calibration or scale for my photographs since I like to see differences that may not show up at smaller or larger scales. Also, coins vary in the amount of light they reflect.

Alex Armstrong is a long-time member of the Raleigh Coin Club. He is a specialist in Latin American coinage, especially that of the Central American Republic. This article originated from a talk at the Raleigh Coin Club and is used with permission.

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Note Provides a Geography Lesson

by Bob Schreiner

There are lots of pleasures in collecting obsolete paper money, and not a few lessons as well. The Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company issued this note in 1826. It caught my eye for a number of reasons including the odd town name of Mauch Chunk (Pennsylvania). The signer, Josiah White, is credited with founding the town. But where, I wondered, is Mauch Chunk? I checked a couple of atlases, but couldn't find Mauch Chunk. Turning to modern technology to help me, I did a search on the World Wide Web. I found Mauch Chunk mentioned as the earlier name for a town now called Jim Thorpe. From one odd name to another. Jim Thorpe, the famed American Indian Olympic athlete, was from there. The town honored him with the name change in 1954. Mystery solved—the town is in eastern Pennsylvania, midway between Wilkes-Barre and Allentown.

The note is cut cancelled—notice the x-shaped dark lines.

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Club News

The **Iredell-Statesville Club**—one of NCNA's newest club members—held their third annual show on October 31, 1998 at the National Guard Armory in Statesville. The show was a dealer sell-out three weeks in advance. A highlight of the show was a door prize drawing every hour for a $5 1/10 ounce Gold Eagle and a final drawing for a 1886-S $5 Liberty gold coin. The club also involved the young collectors with a scavenger hunt on the bourse. Twelve junior collectors participated. The motto of the club is "Educating the Future by Preserving the Past."

The **Lower Cape Fear Coin Club** held its 28th annual Azalea Festival Coin Show in Wilmington April 9-11. The show coincides with Wilmington's annual spring festival of the same name.

Gar Travis at the Azalea Festival Coin Show. Gar is a candidate for ANA governor.

The **Carteret Numismatic Society** will hold its first show over Memorial Day weekend in Morehead City. See show listings for details.

(Continued on page 22)

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NCNA Committees for 1999

The standing committees of NCNA are where much of the work of the organization is done. Interested? There's room for you.

Committee	Charge/Membership (the first person listed is chair)
NOMINATIONS	Solicits and receives nominations for elective offices in NCNA and ensures that at least one candidate is running for each position. Will Jordan, Ted Hendrick
BASON LITERARY AWARD	Chooses the recipient of the Bason Literary Award for the best article contributed to the NCNA *Journal*. Dick Newsome, Vince Wheeler, James Jackson
BYLAWS	Reviews suggestions for changes in NCNA Bylaws. Charles Katzenstein, Dick Newsome
SCHOLARSHIP	Solicits applicants and chooses recipients for NCNA scholarship to the ANA Summer Seminar. Greg Cheek, Clark White
FINANCE	Reviews financial procedures and audits books. Bob Schreiner, Russ Southworth
MEMBERSHIP	Contacts local clubs and arranges for recruitment of new members. John Wills, Ricky Craft
SPEAKERS BUREAU	Maintains list of NCNA members willing to speak to local clubs. Will Jordan, Bob Schreiner, Jerry Sajbel
JOHN J. PITTMAN MEMORIAL AWARD	Solicits nominations for and chooses winner of the John J. Pittman Memorial Award as NCNA Numismatist of the Year. Forest Michael, John Wills, Bob Schreiner
JUNIOR NUMISMATISTS	Develops and supervises programs promoting participation by junior numismatists. Solicits nominations and chooses Junior Numismatist of the Year. Greg Cheek, Dick Newsome, Barry Ciociola
PLANNING	Solicits and reviews proposals for services that NCNA can provide its members. Open
CONVENTION	Plans and operates the NCNA Annual Coin Show and Convention. Ted Hendrick, Cy Dellinger, Paul Greene

Continued next page

(Continued from preceding page)
The following are subcommittees of the Convention Committee and report to the chairman of the Convention Committee.

Publicity	Provides publicity for Annual Convention. Vince Wheeler, Clark White, Halbert Carmichael
Registration	Supervises registration at Annual Convention. Forrest Michael, Russ Southworth
Education	Provides for educational programs at the NCNA Convention. Forrest Michael, John Page, Judith Murphy
Exhibits	Solicits exhibits for the NCNA Convention and supervises facilities and judging for the same. Bob Schreiner, John Page, Halbert Carmichael
Hospitality	Provides for concessions at Annual Convention and arranges Awards Reception. Dot Hendrick, Tessie Michael, Ronnie Greene

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(Continued from page 19)

The **Triangle Coin Club** is the newest NCNA club member. It meets the first Tuesday of each month at Daryl's Coins, 259 W. NC Hwy 54, Homestead Market, Durham, 919-572-0521. President is Barry Ciociola.

Right: Jim Little, a NCNA past president, Betty White, and Tessie Michael staff the registration table at the **Winston-Salem Coin Club** Show, March 20-21.

The **Raleigh Coin Club** has a new web site. See http://www.money.org/clubs/rcc-index.html. The author of the page is David Boitnott.

The Editor encourages NCNA clubs to send in items for this column.

The Commemorative Designs of Frank Gasparro: Part II

by David Provost

In part one of this article, I introduced the fact that while Frank Gasparro did not design a single commemorative *coin* during his 39-year tenure at the U.S. Mint, he was, in fact, a prolific designer of U.S. Mint produced commemoratives. Presently, I'll complete the story by briefly reviewing the privately sponsored National Commemorative Medals (NCMs) that Mr. Gasparro designed during his career at the Mint.

In the years that followed the suspension of U.S. commemorative coinage, Congress grew increasingly supportive of commemorative medal issues. In fact, the period between 1956 and 1976 saw a literal explosion of privately sponsored medal issues—approximately 50 NCMs were authorized and struck! Of these, Frank Gasparro was responsible for the design, in whole or in part, for 20 of them.

Gasparro's first two NCM designs were struck in 1959. The first commemorated the centennial of the discovery of silver in Virginia City, Nevada, while the second was a dual commemorative for the 100th anniversary of Colorado's mid-19th century gold rush and the opening of the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs.

Next up were a pair of medals celebrating the centennial of the launch of the Pony Express in 1860, and the subsequent termination of the service in 1861 due to the installation of the telegraph wire across the western frontier.

A series of statehood centennial commemoratives followed, with Kansas being honored in 1961, West Virginia in 1963, and Nevada in 1964. Two historical figures were also celebrated during this period, with Gen. Douglas MacArthur's contributions to the U.S. being honored in 1962, and the California missionary work of Padre Junipero Serra being recognized in 1963.

In 1965, the first three medals in the Liberty Series were released. They were issued to commemorate the official opening of three congressionally designated national historic shrines in and around New York City—Federal Hall, Castle Clinton, and the American Museum of Immigration. The medals

shared a common obverse that featured a beautifully rendered Statue of Liberty design. A fourth medal was added to the series in 1967 to commemorate Ellis Island.

Gasparro turned his talents to a project for the ANA in 1966. To celebrate the Association's 75th anniversary, the ANA petitioned Congress for an NCM and was successful in their effort. A total of 3,000 bronze medals were struck and made available to ANA members while an additional 30 silver ones were struck as special presentation pieces.

Next up for Gasparro was the Golden Spike commemorative of 1969; the medal celebrated the 100th anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. Gasparro also designed the obverse of the 1969 medal that honored Winston Churchill and his "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College.

Gasparro's NCM output slowed a bit during the 1970's with design credits limited to just four medal programs. He designed a 1971 medal commemorating the contributions of Texas patriot Jose Antonio Navarro, was part of the design team on the 1976 Colorado statehood centennial piece, and was the sole designer on the 1976 National Bicentennial medal (left above) and the 1978 Valley Forge medal (right) for the Capitol Historical Society. The Bicentennial medal, however, remains the most successful of all the NCMs!

Though many of the NCMs that Gasparro designed were struck in a small size (1-5/16" in diameter) and in coin relief, Gasparro's considerable artistic talents produced medals of high quality and noteworthy artistic merit. They are every bit as well designed and executed as any of the traditional commemorative half dollars produced by the Mint, and make for an excellent "companion" collection for the U.S. commemorative coin enthusiast.

Happy collecting!

David Provost is a frequent contributor to these pages and president of the Raleigh Coin Club.

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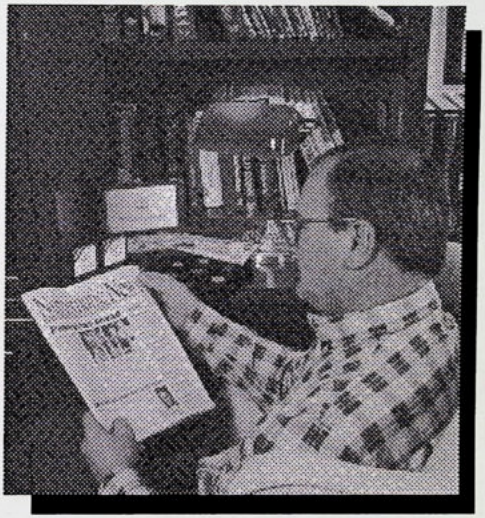

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